

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks do not raise significant new issues or require additional searching by the Examiner. Entry of this Amendment is merited and reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are pending in this application.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In this objection, the Examiner stated that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In response, Applicant has amended the title of the invention and the heading of the claims as "A decoder circuit used in a flash memory device". By this Amendment, Applicant believes that it is not necessary to cancel "the flash memory" as recited in claims 1-9. Accordingly, it is believed that the drawings are now proper. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 9 stand objected to because of the informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the word "volatage" to --voltage-- in claim 5 and amended claim 9 such that the word "transistor" is proper. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 5 in view of the Examiner's detailed comments and canceled claim 6. Applicant submits that claims 1, 3 and 5 are now clear and definite.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claim 6.

Applicant further notes with appreciation that claims 1, 3 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. As set forth above, claims 1, 3 and 5 are believed to be in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 3 and 5 are now allowable.

Claims 2, 4 and 7-9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As independent claims 1 and 5 are believed to be allowable, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 7 and

9, which are dependent upon claim 1 or 5, are patentable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 5, as well as on their own merits.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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